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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 26 June 1996, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. MOUBARAK	(Lebanon)
later:	Mr. EITEL (Vice-President)	(Germany)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES (continued) (E/1996/18, E/1996/57)

Mrs. OWEN (Ireland) said her Government had identified drugs as one of the priority themes for the six-month period of the Irish presidency of the European Union and hoped during that period to address the problem directly and sow the seeds of further work. Key actions which Ireland would pursue during its presidency included the implementation of a programme on the prevention of drug dependency in the field of public health, agreements between the European Union and third countries on the identification, control and sale of precursors, measures to protect the external borders of the European Union and a memorandum of understanding between customs administrations and the trade and private sectors to enlist their help in the fight against drugs.

Drug abuse and its related problems were the cause of family breakdown, unemployment, mindless violence and organized crime. Money-laundering related to the illicit trade of narcotics undermined legitimate economic structures and distorted the world trading system. It was estimated that illegal profits from drug trafficking amounted to $300 billion, which was more than 300 times what the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) received in voluntary contributions. In recent years, there had been an increase in the amount of synthetic substances, such as ecstasy, which were relatively easy to produce chemically. A world market, driven by demand and opportunity, had developed just as much for illicit drugs as for consumer goods. Moreover, illegal drug use was no longer confined to the industrialized countries; more and more producer and transit countries were affected by it. Thus, there was an ever-increasing need for cooperation among countries in order to address common problems. Methods to deal with the growing complexity of drug abuse must take account of the global responsibilities which all countries shared.

Mr. JAYANAMA (Thailand) said over the past decade the drug problem had grown increasingly complex. Illicit drug trafficking, coupled with the armed activity of drug cartels, had undermined political and economic stability and

the social fabric of many countries. His country, which confronted not only the problem of drug production but also that of illicit trafficking and a drug epidemic, accorded high national priority to the fight against drugs. His Government had introduced rural development projects and crop substitution programmes to provide alternative sources of livelihood and had strengthened law enforcement efforts aimed at breaking up the drug trafficking network. It had succeeded in reducing the opium cultivation area in most parts of the country, with the exception of an inaccessible pocket in the north, and would continue its efforts until opium cultivation had been eliminated.

The Government had also introduced preventive education programmes and a community network to promote socio-economic development and demand reduction. It National Development Plan stressed the strengthening of the family and community as a complementary means of controlling drug abuse.

His country was convinced that international cooperation was essential to the war on drugs and fully supported the lead role of the United Nations. For several years, his Government had been participating in subregional projects with the assistance of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and would welcome the strengthening of the subregional strategy.

Thailand fully supported the implementation of international drug control instruments and related programmes and had introduced a law to penalize money-laundering in preparation for its accession to the 1988 Convention. UNDCP could play a vital role in assisting member countries to implement fully the drug control treaties and other international instruments. His Government contributed annually to UNDCP, which required generous donations in order to carry out fully its activities and mandate.

Other agencies within the United Nations system, including the international financial institutions, could also contribute to effective international action against drugs. His delegation endorsed the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control as a vital instrument for the coordination and enhancement of anti-drug activities and urged other United Nations agencies to increase their cooperation with UNDCP and attach higher priority to drug control efforts.

Despite increased efforts by the international community, the drug problem continued worldwide and new synthetic drugs had emerged, worsening the situation. Both producing and exporting countries should impose strict control

on chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine to prevent the diversion of those chemicals for illicit drug production. His Government was exercising strict control over the import of such chemicals as part of its commitment and willingness to cooperate with the international community in the fight against the scourge of illicit drugs.

Ms. BELLAMY (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)) said that the use of illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco was taking an increasing toll on the health and development of children, adolescents and families around the world. Drug abuse undermined young people's health and opportunities in the present, their future productivity as adults, the health of their children and their capacity to be caring and supportive parents. Drugs contributed to the spread of HIV/AIDS and to the rising incidence of injuries.

The major factors underlying drug abuse included poverty, urbanization, civil unrest, family breakdown and weakened social support systems. Unsafe sex, accidents and violence were also linked to substance abuse. Young people frequently had poor access to the information needed to make informed decisions and to education and health services.

UNICEF had developed several policies, including a health strategy, to address issues related to substance abuse and demand reduction. Five key areas of intervention were being incorporated into country programmes: national planning and policy development; school-based interventions; "youth-friendly" health services; health promotion and outreach through non-governmental organizations; and working with the news and entertainment media. While discussions tended to focus on young people's behaviour, less was said about the attitudes and behaviours of adults and society which caused the problems facing young people. Those damaging behaviours should be changed and young people should be heard and included in programmes. Whenever possible, UNICEF attempted to include children in its programmes, not only as direct beneficiaries, but also as participants in the design or evaluation of projects.

Mr. KIMBERG (Observer for Denmark) said that Danish efforts to combat drug trafficking were based on initiatives taken at the United Nations and European levels with respect to money-laundering and precursors. The fight against drugs must be aimed at both supply and demand if control measures were to be successful. Since August 1995 his Government had been implementing a pilot project to offer criminal drug abusers the opportunity to replace

imprisonment with treatment; it was still too early to draw any conclusions as to the results.

It was generally acknowledged that positive results in treatment and rehabilitation were extremely difficult to obtain. Therefore, primary prevention was of the greatest importance. His Government strongly supported the development of a declaration on the guiding principles of demand reduction in consultation with Member States in order to increase international cooperation in primary prevention. The declaration should emphasize that drug abuse stemmed to a large extent from lack of education, unemployment, inadequate housing and poor social conditions and that any welfare improvements in those areas would substantially enhance primary prevention of the demand for drugs. The first step was mutual recognition that demand reduction should be a crucial element in national narcotic-drug policies.

His Government had continued to increase its contribution to UNDCP and supported greater cooperation between UNDCP, the various United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and the international financial institutions. Wherever possible, UNDCP projects should form part of existing projects implemented by the United Nations system. In that regard, the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control should be seen as a strategic tool for enhancing the effects of activities and giving UNDCP an effective catalytic role. The usefulness of that Plan in terms of coordination depended on its ability to promote additional high-quality projects.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia) reaffirmed his Government's commitment to combat illicit drug trafficking, the monetary value of which now exceeded that of international trade in arms and oil. Narcotics trade was directly related to the clandestine arms trade, international crime, corruption and money-laundering. The narcotics trade, which crossed State boundaries and could not be defeated by military means must necessarily be the subject of international cooperation. Drug addiction cost lives and led to complex criminal problems. For that reason, his Government had adopted a comprehensive approach to drug-related problems, incorporating education, health, rehabilitation, youth affairs, banking and law enforcement. Furthermore, reduction of demand had always been a central pillar of Australia's national drug strategy.

A key to his Government's strategy for managing the consequences of drug misuse was to introduce harm minimization measures, without necessarily awaiting

the elimination of drug misuse. Such measures included demand reduction, supply control, controlled and safer drug use and abstinence. The elimination of illicit drugs remained the ultimate goal. While a harm minimization strategy might not be appropriate for all countries, it had produced significant successes in reducing the social, economic and health-related harms in Australia. However, harm reduction should not be undertaken in isolation from supply control. There was little to be gained from educating people to reject drug use when there were inadequate law enforcement efforts to reduce supplies. Similarly, there was little to be gained by introducing measures such as methadone programmes and needle exchanges to prevent the spread of infection, if use of those services exposed individuals to law enforcement action.

Owing to an increase in deaths from heroin overdosing, his Government had established a multidisciplinary group to address that issue. The group had stressed the need to educate heroin users about the dangers of injecting and to research the management of overdoses by using alternate drugs.

In the area of law enforcement, federal and local authorities were reviewing legislation on narcotic offences with a view to developing a simplified set of clear model laws. Consistent and complementary laws in all jurisdictions would make prosecution of offenders easier and reduce costs. Penalties for engaging in trafficking, manufacture and importation of illicit drugs would also be reviewed in order to warn individuals engaged in such activities that they risked severe punishment. His Government believed that the most practical and meaningful way to give effect to international treaty obligations was to establish a national drug strategy that took into account not only the drugs themselves but also the people involved and their social and physical environments.

Although his country had entered into many bilateral drug-control arrangements, it remained convinced of the crucial and unique role the United Nations could play in initiating and coordinating drug-control activities at the international level. The important role of UNDCP as coordinator at the policy and operational levels should be enhanced. A key outcome of the current session of the Council should be a reaffirmation by Member States of their commitment to UNDCP, which implied active participation in its governance and ensuring that it was given sufficient funds - which it currently lacked - to implement its complex and demanding mandate.

The special session of the General Assembly scheduled for 1998 would provide an excellent opportunity to determine whether any improvements were needed in established structures, with a view to making them even more effective in the work of the international community to combat narcotic drugs. Valuable reforms had been instituted in the Secretariat in recent years, which made it all the more desirable to consider what improvements could be made in the relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies.

Mr. ALCALAY (Venezuela) said that Venezuela, as a sponsor of the 1988 Convention, actively combated drug trafficking at the national and international levels and welcomed the convening in 1998 of a special session of the General Assembly to consider how to strengthen the international strategy against drugs. His delegation fully endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the item under discussion (E/1996/57).

His country's revised national legislation on narcotics and psychotropic substances focused on consumption, prevention, dependency, interdiction and control of money-laundering, and its drug control strategy, which had been approved by UNDCP, focused primarily on prevention. Notwithstanding the economic crisis which the country faced, national authorities had stepped up their law enforcement efforts, particularly with respect to money-laundering. Efforts were also under way to prevent the production of illicit crops and combat the violence and corruption attendant upon drug trafficking.

His delegation urged the international community to support, through UNDCP and in accordance with article 14 of the 1988 Convention, research under way in Latin America on herbicides, with a view to enabling land from which drug crops had been eliminated to be immediately utilizable for other purposes. His country had adopted virtually all the standards elaborated by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission with respect to money-laundering and the control of precursors and chemicals, and it welcomed the cooperation between the European Union and the Andean countries with respect to preferential market access for the latter's exports. His Government believed that the most effective way for Governments to strengthen and harmonize their legal systems would be to sign and ratify the 1988 Convention. It also appreciated the work of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in Latin America. Regional conferences sponsored by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission had provided useful guidance in the preparation of legislation to prevent money-

laundering and had facilitated compliance by participating States with the relevant provisions of the 1988 Convention. His country had entered into many bilateral agreements to combat drug trafficking. His delegation urged the international community to support drug control efforts and expressed its gratitude to the United Nations for its work in that field.

Mr. EITEL (Germany), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. MOUBARAK (Lebanon) said that his delegation endorsed the position of the Group of 77 on the item under discussion.

During the recent war, his country had gained a reputation as a safe haven for drug traffickers. After the war, his Government had launched a national strategy to tackle all issues relating to the prevention and control of drug abuse and the production of and traffic in illicit drugs, for which it sought the assistance of UNDCP and other relevant organizations. His country had ratified the 1988 Convention. An ambitious illicit crop eradication programme had been conducted from 1991 to 1993, and an integrated area development programme for districts in which the production of drugs was concentrated had been established to develop an institutional structure for programme implementation, the rehabilitation and development of the agricultural sector, the upgrading of social services and the development of non-agricultural income-generating activities and the improvement of drinking water.

Other measures taken included demand-reduction efforts, redefinition of the national legal and institutional framework for drug control, and the adoption of revised drug-control legislation, including measures on money-laundering. His Government was deeply grateful to UNDCP, which had commended it for its achievements and its continuing commitment to interdiction.

Notwithstanding inadequate financial support from the international community for his country's effort to implement rehabilitation and development measures in districts where illicit crop eradication had been carried out, his Government was pursuing that national initiative. Noting that a respected source had published inaccurate information on his country's drug-control efforts, he underscored the importance of reporting only accurate figures based on facts and achievements, with a view to enhancing the joint effort to combat the scourge of drugs. His country's widely recognized accomplishments during the past five years underscored the fact that it deserved full support from the international community.

Mr. AMZAZI (Observer for Morocco) said that international cooperation to combat drug trafficking should focus on demand reduction and on alternative crop production, with a view to eliminating the social and economic causes of drug use and trafficking. His country's drug control strategy focused on reducing supplies, combating illicit traffic and cooperation at the international level on all drug-related issues. His country had adhered to all the relevant international instruments. Its intensive campaign against drug trafficking had resulted in the dismantling of trafficking networks, the prosecution of domestic and foreign traffickers, the seizure of large quantities of drugs and psychotropic substances and the confiscation of profits resulting from drug trafficking. The Government had drafted legislation on money-laundering patterned on the provisions of the 1988 Convention and relevant resolutions of the United Nations and other international organizations.

A development plan had been launched in 1992 to assist the parts of the country affected by the scourge, and a special agency had been established in 1995 to focus that effort. His Government hoped that, given the close correlation between demand and supply, the European Union would support the agency's work. His delegation commended UNDCP for its work in mobilizing resources and hoped that donor countries and the international financial institutions would likewise assist countries which were committed to eradicating the scourge of drug abuse and trafficking.

His country was also committed to strengthening its cooperation with other countries through bilateral agreements and subregional or regional arrangements and within the special agencies of the United Nations system. A declaration adopted at a meeting of interior ministers of the countries bordering the western Mediterranean had acknowledged the shared responsibility of producer and consumer countries and had called for increased cooperation in police, economic, technical and judicial matters.

His delegation hoped that his country's commitment to the fight against drugs, as demonstrated by its actions and the sacrifices it had made, would be properly reflected in the relevant reports prepared by the United Nations. Lastly, he expressed his delegation's support for the convening in 1998 of a special session of the General Assembly to deal with drug-related issues.

Mrs. OSORIO VIZCAINO (Observer for Cuba) said that one feature of the international drug crisis which had not been adequately analysed was the fact

that the major drug-consuming countries were far wealthier than the major drug-producing countries. That fact should be taken into account in bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes, and larger sums should be allocated to assist the economically disadvantaged countries. On occasion, countries receiving such assistance were obliged to accept conditions which impinged on their sovereignty.

Her country was a transit State for drug trafficking but was very firmly committed to combating that odious activity. Despite its difficult economic situation, caused by the extremely cruel blockade imposed by the United States Government, its drug seizure efforts had proved satisfactory.

Her Government had always honoured its international commitment to combat the scourge of drugs and also had bilateral arrangements with a number of countries. She reiterated her Government's willingness to enter into relevant agreements with all countries, on the basis of mutual respect and non-interference in their internal affairs. Her country had ratified the 1988 Convention and was thus a party to all United Nations instruments on drug control. In conclusion, she urged all countries to strive to eradicate the drug problem, bearing in mind that the future of mankind was at stake.

Mr. BORG (Observer for Malta) said that the fact that more than 133 of the 185 States Members of the United Nations had ratified the 1988 Convention was vivid proof of their commitment to underscore the international dimension of the fight against drug trafficking. His country had acceded to the Convention in February 1996 and its Parliament had enacted the enabling legislation in June. Most of that legislation was based on the principles of cooperation enshrined in the Convention, such as the possibility of executing in his country seizure and confiscation orders issued abroad against presumed and convicted drug traffickers. The new law had also introduced the penalty of life imprisonment for serious drug trafficking.

His country had enjoyed dramatic success in drug law enforcement during the past two years. It also attached high priority to international cooperation in that area and, with regard to training, was particularly grateful to the Drug Enforcement Agency of the United States.

His Government was categorically opposed to the legalization of drugs. Surveys showed that public opinion was overwhelmingly against any form of

legalization, which would undoubtedly lead to an increase in consumption and in drug-related crimes.

The best form of international cooperation was at the regional level. The Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference held at Barcelona in November 1995 had pledged to fight organized crime and combat the drug problem. His Government had proposed that a ministerial meeting should be held to formulate concrete measures, and that a EUROMED monitoring and coordinating centre should be established to serve as a central coordinating agency for the exchange of information and intelligence on illicit drug trafficking at the regional level.

In 1993, his Government had established an agency to combat drug and alcohol abuse which had become the focal point through which individuals and their families gained access to specialized services and individualized treatment plans. As part of demand-reduction programmes, awareness was being increased among all sectors of society through structured programmes within the community. Programmes for community prevention, parenting skills, schools and professional training were being implemented.

UNDCP, with its technical expertise, could greatly assist EUROMED structures in preventing the Mediterranean basin, an important sea route, from being used by international drug dealers as a transit stage. As to the financial situation of UNDCP, article 5 of the 1988 Convention, which referred to the confiscation of proceeds and property, should be utilized as a source of funding for UNDCP programmes and for other drug control and prevention programmes.

Mr. SYCHOU (Belarus) said that the fight against illicit drug trafficking was particularly intense in Belarus because of the close connection between drug dealers and organized crime, on the one hand, and the impact of drugs on the health of the population in conjunction with the environmental problems faced by Belarus, on the other. More than 750 drug-related crimes had been committed in 1995 in Belarus, where a steady growth in drug abuse and the opportunity to extract huge profits had created favourable conditions for drug dealers. Ties were being established between local criminal groups and foreign networks and it appeared that drug cartels were trying to establish new markets in the territory of Belarus.

The geographical location of Belarus made it a convenient drug transit zone. More than 30 per cent of the drugs confiscated from illicit traffickers

had been brought in from abroad. There was an alarming trend towards the import of large quantities of dangerous drugs, such as heroin and opium, and the outlook was anything but favourable. There were likely to be further attempts to establish underground laboratories for processing drug crops or producing synthetic narcotics and psychotropic substances, and the activities of drug cartels in money laundering and investment in privatized companies, real estate and the financial sphere were intensifying.

His Government was taking measures to stop the growth of illicit drug trafficking and curb supply and demand. An inter-agency commission to combat crime and drug addiction had been established in 1995 and had adopted guidelines for State policy on the control of narcotics and psychotropic substances. Draft laws on combating drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking were being formulated. A programme of scientific research on drug addiction and drug-related criminality was being developed by the law enforcement agencies and the scientific research services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. A national computerized databank with data on illicit trafficking, large-scale drug seizures and drug traffickers with regional and international links had been established.

Belarus participated actively in multilateral cooperation for drug abuse control and was a party to all the major international conventions on the subject. It had also concluded a number of bilateral agreements with individual countries to strengthen cooperation against money laundering, the leakage of precursors and other chemical substances and illicit drug production and trafficking. It attached particular importance to cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Assistance from the world community was of great importance to countries in transition, and Belarus appreciated its fruitful cooperation with UNDCP, which was supplying assistance in improving national anti-drug legislation and drug control activities and providing medical treatment for drug addicts. Belarus supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998.

Mr. MABILANGAN (Philippines) said that his delegation fully associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Since the beginning of the decade, seven international conferences had been held on social issues, but the opportunity had been missed to analyse how activities to address those issues were being threatened by drug abuse and by drug trafficking and related criminal activities. The strong political will to improve economic and social conditions must be matched by an equally strong commitment to fight the scourge of drug abuse. His delegation supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998.

His Government joined the call for much stronger international action against drug abuse and drug trafficking. The fight could no longer be waged by individual countries; international cooperation was the only way to succeed. There must be universal ratification and implementation of the drug control conventions, the Global Programme of Action adopted in 1990 and the Declaration adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. While those documents might need to be adjusted to changing circumstances, the purpose for which they had been prepared must be achieved at all costs. The proposal to establish a system of performance monitoring should be considered.

The anti-drug efforts of the developing countries needed sustained support from the international community and the United Nations, especially in dealing with the sophisticated methods of well-armed drug traffickers.

Through the Dangerous Drugs Board, an inter-agency body created by his Government, the provisions of the three drug-control conventions to which the Philippines was a party were being implemented and monitored. His Government continued to meet its obligations as a member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). At the regional and international levels, it cooperated actively with bilateral partners within and outside the Asian region. His Government welcomed the support it received from the European Union for two important demand-reduction projects of ASEAN and requested continued support for the projects beyond 1997 to enable it to reach all parts of the country affected by the drug problem.

The Philippines continued to be a transshipment point for international drug syndicates, and the cultivation of cannabis by rural inhabitants and drug syndicates remained a problem. Cannabis and methamphetamine-hydrochloride trafficking dominated the illicit drug market; the illegal entry of methamphetamine was hard to detect because it was colourless and odourless. The Philippines was eager to continue its cooperation with the international

community, the United Nations and multilateral financial institutions in dealing with those problems.

Mr. SIMELANE (Observer for Swaziland) said that his delegation fully concurred with the Secretary-General's recommendations on developing mechanisms to facilitate multilateral decision-making and action against money-laundering, and on greater coordination between Governments and private banking and other financial institutions (E/1996/57, para. 30). He stressed the urgent need to address the growing links at the international level between criminal organizations and terrorist groups engaged in drug trafficking and other criminal activities. Governments should intensify their efforts to adopt adequate legislation, strengthen national judicial systems and carry out effective drug control activities with other States in accordance with international instruments.

Swaziland strongly supported the focus of UNDCP on regional, subregional and national strategies for drug abuse control, and it appealed for further assistance to Member States from UNDCP in adjusting laws, policies and infrastructures to implement international drug control conventions, in training personnel responsible for applying new laws, and in establishing national drug detection laboratories. With the cooperation of local non-governmental organizations and UNDCP, Swaziland was currently preparing to implement projects on drug-law enforcement, workplace rehabilitation initiatives and community action on drugs and alcohol. It had also set up a National Advisory Committee on Substance Abuse, and was in the process of strengthening its national anti-corruption legislation.

He expressed concern at the recent decline in the resources allocated to UNDCP from regular and extrabudgetary sources, and called upon the Member States to join their efforts to combat the drug threat through the instrumentality of the United Nations.

Mr. LAMAMRA (Observer for Algeria) said that, over the past five years, the activities of UNDCP had demonstrated the great potential of international cooperation in the face of a transboundary scourge which undermined the fabric of society and jeopardized economic development. UNDCP had succeeded in alerting States to the need for an organized struggle against drugs, at the universal level, and had harnessed the national experience of States in developing programmes to enhance prevention and strengthen control

through the harmonization of national efforts and mutual assistance among States. The human and financial resources of UNDCP must be significantly increased and sustained so that there were no disparities or weak points in the programmes accepted on by the international community, especially in developing countries and particularly in Africa.

In less than a decade, drug consumption had increased considerably in Africa and the continent had become an important transit point for drugs travelling towards the major consumer countries. Africa therefore insisted that, alongside the legitimate interests of producer and consumer countries, the interests of the transit countries should be duly taken into account. The drug control bodies and UNDCP must devote close attention to Africa.

Situated at the crossroads of Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Algeria, whose social values had long protected it from being a producer or major consumer, had become a transit point for large quantities of drugs, a small proportion of which were being consumed locally. At least 70 to 75 per cent of drugs seized were in transit; the drugs circulating locally were mainly cannabis and its derivatives. Recent investigations had established a clear link between drug abuse and terrorist activities through transfrontier networks involved in arms and drug dealing. Accordingly, the public authorities had established a system of preventive, deterrent and punitive measures. A national commission to combat drugs and drug addiction had been set up and a national plan had been drawn up and implemented with the assistance of all the competent State structures and non-governmental organizations.

Prevention mainly took the form of promoting awareness among the different components of society, particularly young people. In the area of deterrence, efforts were concentrated on border control, where the strengthening of human and material resources could be supported by UNDCP. As to punishment, under Algerian legislation drug traffickers were severely penalized. In addition, the Ministry of Justice had introduced a substantial reform of the legislation on illicit drug trafficking in order to bring it into line with the international conventions to which Algeria was a party.

The political will to enhance international cooperation in drug abuse control clearly existed. The international community should be able to allocate the necessary resources to combat the scourge of drugs. In so doing, States would invest in the well-being of future generations and promote the dignity and

worth of the human person in accordance with the Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations.

Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Observer for Kazakstan) said that her delegation agreed that, in order to combat the drug problem, decisive action was needed on the part of the United Nations and the entire international community. It believed that the measures taken should be more closely coordinated and interconnected. The discussion had confirmed the advisability of concentrating on the priority issues of international cooperation in combating drugs. Her delegation supported the need to strengthen control of the production, supply and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. There was clearly an urgent need to enhance the cooperation of States at the global, regional and bilateral levels in combating illicit drug trafficking.

Her Government attached great importance to strengthening its cooperation with UNDCP and INCB and expressed appreciation for the assistance provided to Kazakstan in combating drug abuse. In May 1996 Kazakstan, along with other countries of central Asia, had signed a memorandum on cooperation with UNDCP which provided for the formulation of a regional strategy to establish a coordinating mechanism for cooperation, the formulation and implementation of projects and programmes, and the organization of annual meetings of government representatives and UNDCP.

Her Government attached great importance to the strengthening of cooperation among States at the regional level and, within the Commonwealth of Independent States, was a party to multilateral agreements on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking. It had signed an inter-State programme of measures to combat organized crime, which envisaged the formulation of an agreement on cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and strengthening coordination with UNDCP. Kazakstan was also a party to a quadripartite treaty with the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan on strengthening integration in the economic and humanitarian fields, which included provisions about drugs.

The report of the Secretary-General drew attention to the new problems arising for the countries in transition, where institutions to fight illicit drugs and related criminal activities had barely emerged (E/1996/57, para. 70). Her Government was taking all possible measures to combat the drug threat. Taking into account the substantial drug-growing potential of Kazakstan, it had established, guided by recommendations from UNDCP, a State commission for the

control of narcotic substances. An independent department to control drug trafficking had been established in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and units had been established at the local level. Work was being carried out to upgrade national legislation and prepare for participation in the main international agreements on the subject.

Mr. GORNI (Observer for Israel) said that Israel would continue to cooperate with its neighbours at the bilateral and multilateral levels. At the first subregional technical meeting on drug control, recently held under the auspices of UNDCP, representatives of Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians had launched a coordinated effort to stem the flow of drugs into the Middle East.

While Israel shared the view that law enforcement was not the sole solution to the drug problem, efforts to eliminate the supply of illegal drugs through law enforcement and effective interdiction played a key role in its short- and medium-term anti-drug activities. It was also making progress in long-term measures, such as treatment, rehabilitation and education programmes, designed to stem the demand for narcotics and other illegal drugs. Research on drug abuse problems was being encouraged, and numerous training programmes for drug abuse treatment personnel were under way. Special emphasis was also being placed on programmes for the prevention and treatment of drug abuse among youth.

Mr. BAHADIAN (Brazil) said that Brazil was taking measures to increase the efficiency and improve the organization of governmental and non-governmental mechanisms for drug abuse prevention and control, such as a national anti-drug action programme emphasizing prevention, law enforcement and rehabilitation. Legislation implementing some of the provisions of the 1988 Convention was being drafted, in some cases with the collaboration of UNDCP, in the areas of trafficking, money-laundering and control of chemical precursors.

Brazil had also proposed drug control initiatives and instruments in several international forums, such as the Inter-American Commission for Drug Abuse Control, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic, and counted on the support of UNDCP in their implementation. Brazil also supported the proposal to convene a special session of the General Assembly in 1998 to discuss drug-related issues.

Mr. HALLAK (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) expressed his delegation's support for the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica

on behalf of the Group of 77. Combating the scourge of narcotics and the associated socio-economic problems could only be successful through a comprehensive, global effort dealing simultaneously with the demand for narcotics as well as their production and trafficking. The Syrian Arab Republic had enacted anti-drug legislation that encompassed the provisions of the major international conventions on narcotics and was cooperating with its regional Arab neighbours at the bilateral and multilateral levels in the combat against illicit narcotics trafficking, with a view to achieving the objectives of UNDCP. It was also taking determined measures to prevent the use of its territory as a transit territory for illicit drug trafficking, and its cooperation with Interpol had made possible the seizure of large amounts of narcotics in recent years.

While supporting the anti-drug efforts of the United Nations, the Syrian Arab Republic stressed the importance of adopting and endorsing the reports of Member States concerning the drug situation in their countries in order to avoid any ambiguities. It wished to see the United Nations continue to coordinate international efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNDCP.

Mr. ANDREADIS (Greece), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, referred to the incorrect denomination of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in a recent statement made by the representative of that State. He recalled that Security Council resolution 817 (1993) recommended that that State shall be provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" pending settlement of the difference that had arisen over its name. That difference had yet to be settled. He also pointed out that the same principle applied to references to "Macedonia" made at a previous meeting of the Council by the representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and he requested that they should refrain from using that designation in the future.

Mr. KRLIU (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that, contrary to the statement of the representative of Greece, Security Council resolution 817 dealt only with references to his country made within the United Nations, not to the constitutional name of his country, which was the Republic of Macedonia. He said that references to the constitutional name of

his country were in accordance with the resolution, which did not demand the use of the form of the name contained in it.

Mr. ANDREADIS (Greece) said the text of the resolution was self-explanatory and did not admit of differing interpretations, which would have the effect of depriving the resolution of all meaning. He stressed that in any case, the references in question had been made within the walls of the United Nations, in which the provisions of the resolution applied.

Mr. KRLIU (Observer for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that demanding that a sovereign Member State should refrain from using its own constitutional name was contrary to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of the resolution. He repeated that the constitutional name of his country was the Republic of Macedonia.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.